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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants:	Mark T. Cammarota et al.	Docket No.:	14966.1
Serial No.:	09/928,785	T.C./A.U.:	3761
Confirmation No.:	8428	Examiner:	Catharine L. Anderson
Filed:	August 13, 2001	Date:	March 22, 2006
For:	ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING WETNESS INDICATING GRAPHICS INCORPORATING A TRAINING ZONE		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence comprising:

Amended Brief on Appeal (30 pages)

31 total pages, including this page

is being transmitted on March 22, 2006 to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Fax No. 571-273-8300.

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**Amended Brief on Appeal to the
Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences**

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 41.37, Appellants respectfully submit this Amended Brief on Appeal which corrects the Amended Brief on Appeal dated December 22, 2006, by further expanding the concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims, as indicated in the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief mailed February 22, 2007.

Real Party in Interest

Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc., the assignee of the present patent application, is the real party in interest. Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

Related Appeals and Interferences

Appellant's copending U.S. patent application Serial No. 10/651,354 to Olson et al. (Attorney Docket 12567.2) was filed August 28, 2003, and is presently on appeal. The Notice

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of Appeal was filed March 6, 2006, and the issues have been briefed. All claims in both the Olson et al. application and the present Cammarota et al. application include the term "character graphic" and stand rejected by Examiner Anderson.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-24, 26, 30, 31 and 38-40 are pending in the application and are under appeal. Claims 25, 27-29, 32-37 and 41-42 have been cancelled.

Status of Amendments Filed Subsequent to Final Rejection

No amendments were filed after the Office Action mailed September 28, 2004.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Figures from the application are provided in an Exhibit hereto for ease of reference.

The invention relates to an absorbent article "that provides toilet training aid benefits through the use of interactive graphics and graphics that inform the caregiver and child when an accident has occurred. The interactive graphics can include a permanent character graphic and the wetness indicating graphics can include one or more active object graphics. The object graphics are referred to as 'active' because they are constructed to 'disappear' or 'appear' from view" Application, pg. 2, lines 9-19; *see also* pg. 3, lines 16-25. In contrast to an "active graphic," the term "permanent graphic" refers to "a graphic that does not substantially change its degree of visibility when the absorbent article is insulted with urine and when the absorbent article is exposed to the environment, in simulated use conditions." Pg. 5, lines 17-20.

"The wetness indicating graphic may allow the caregiver to interact with the child and teach the child important lessons regarding toilet training." Pg. 2, lines 21-23. Desirably, the character graphic can represent a well-known character from popular media. "The character graphic may be extremely useful in order to enhance the child's interest in the product, particularly where the caregiver interacts with the child positively about the character graphic." Pg. 2, lines 28-31. Nevertheless, the creator of the character graphic may desire that the

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image of the character not be directly related to the toilet training process. Pg. 2, lines 23-28. Accordingly, the permanent character graphic can be conceptually and/or visually separated from the interactive wetness indicating graphic. Pg. 2, line 31 to pg. 3, line 2.

By way of illustration, Figure 1 depicts a training pant 20 including "a permanent character graphic 60 in the form of a dog having human-like expressions and wearing a shirt and a hat, a permanent object graphic 62 in the form of an automobile, a visual segmentation element 64, and a plurality of active object graphics 66 representing stars. The dog 60 is illustrated to be involved in an activity or action, namely driving, utilizing the automobile 62." Pg. 25, lines 3-8.

To promote conceptual and/or visual separation between the permanent character graphic 60 and the active object graphics 66, the dog 60 and automobile 62 are unrelated in subject matter with the stars 66, and the dog and automobile are interactively unrelated to the stars. The visual segmentation element 64 further distinguishes the permanent character graphic 60 from the active object graphics 66. The visual segmentation element 64 is disposed on the outer cover 40, with at least a portion of the visual segmentation element disposed between the permanent character graphic 60 and the active object graphics 66. The visual segmentation element 64 of the illustrated embodiment comprises a segmentation graphic that substantially surrounds both the dog 60 and the automobile 62. The illustrated segmentation graphic is the outline of a stop sign, which is related in subject matter to the activity of the character graphic.

When the child wets the training pant 20, liquid is communicated to the active object graphics 66, whereupon the object graphics either dissolve, change color, appear, or the like. For fading graphics, the stars 66 can "disappear" upon contact with urine. Where appearing graphics are employed, the situation would work in reverse and the stars 66 would "appear" upon liquid insult. Alternatively, the active object graphics 66 can comprise appearing graphics that are triggered upon use by exposure to the environment.

Pg. 25, line 28 through pg. 26, line 14. Additional embodiments of the present invention are illustrated in Figures 3-8 and described in the specification.

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Independent claim 1 recites an absorbent article 20, 80, 90, 95, 100, 105, 130 (see pg. 21, lines 13-17) comprising an outer cover 40 having an interior surface 112 and an opposite exterior surface 110. An absorbent assembly 44 is disposed on the interior surface (see Figs. 9A-9C). Both a permanent character graphic 60, 81 (see pg. 5, line 17 to pg. 7, line 14) and an active object graphic 66, 85, 109, 134 (see pg. 2, lines 14-18 and pg. 3, line 16 to pg. 5, line 16) are disposed on the outer cover. Claim 1 recites that the permanent character graphic and the active object graphic are unrelated in subject matter (see pg. 9, line 21 to pg. 10, line 17).

Independent claim 2 recites an absorbent article 20, 80, 90, 95, 100, 105, 130 (see pg. 21, lines 13-17) comprising an outer cover 40 having an interior surface 112 and an opposite exterior surface 110. An absorbent assembly 44 is disposed on the interior surface (see Figs. 9A-9C). Both a permanent character graphic 60, 81 (see pg. 5, line 17 to pg. 7, line 14) and an active object graphic 66, 85, 109, 134 (see pg. 2, lines 14-18 and pg. 3, line 16 to pg. 5, line 16) are disposed on the outer cover. Claim 2 recites that the permanent character graphic is illustrated performing an activity or action, and the permanent character graphic is interactively unrelated to the active object graphic (see pg. 7, line 19 to pg. 8, line 20).

Independent claim 3 recites an absorbent article 20, 80, 90, 95, 100, 105, 130 (see pg. 21, lines 13-17) comprising an outer cover 40 having an interior surface 112 and an opposite exterior surface 110. An absorbent assembly 44 is disposed on the interior surface (see Figs. 9A-9C). Both a permanent character graphic 60, 81 (see pg. 5, line 17 to pg. 7, line 14) and an active object graphic 66, 85, 109, 134 (see pg. 2, lines 14-18 and pg. 3, line 16 to pg. 5, line 16) are disposed on the outer cover. Claim 3 recites a visual segmentation element 64, 84, 92, 98, 104, 108, 132 (see pg. 12, line 3 to pg. 15, line 9) disposed between the permanent character graphic and the active object graphic.

Independent claim 38 recites to a disposable training pant 20, 80, 90, 95, 100, 105, 130 (see pg. 21, lines 13-17) defining a longitudinal centerline 36, a transverse centerline 38, opposite first and second longitudinal end edges 56 and 58, first and second waist regions 22 and 24 abutting the respective first and second longitudinal end edges, and a crotch region 26 disposed between and interconnecting the first and second waist regions. The absorbent article comprises an outer cover 40 having an interior surface 112 and an opposite exterior surface 110. An absorbent assembly 44 is disposed on the interior surface (see Figs. 9A-9C).

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A permanent character graphic 60, 81 (see pg. 5, line 17 to pg. 7, line 14) is disposed on the outer cover in the first waist region. A permanent object graphic 62, 82, 83, 96, 97, 102, 106 (see pg. 11, lines 5-10) is disposed on the outer cover in the first waist region. The permanent character graphic 60, 81 is illustrated to be involved in an activity or action utilizing the permanent object graphic (see pg. 11, lines 10-13). An active object graphic 66, 85, 109, 134 (see pg. 2, lines 14-18 and pg. 3, line 16 to pg. 5, line 16) is disposed on the outer cover in the crotch region and in liquid communication (see pg. 19, lines 19-22) with the absorbent assembly. Both the permanent character graphic and the permanent object graphic are unrelated in subject matter to the active object graphic (see pg. 9, line 21 to pg. 10, line 17), and the permanent character graphic is interactively unrelated to the active object graphic (see pg. 7, line 19 to pg. 8, line 20). A visual segmentation element 64, 84, 92, 98, 104, 108, 132 (see pg. 12, line 3 to pg. 15, line 9) is disposed between the permanent character graphic and the active object graphic.

Grounds Of Rejection To Be Reviewed On Appeal

Ground 1

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11, 13, 15-18, 24 and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Design Patent 313,076 issued December 18, 1990 to Harju. Under Ground 1, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13, 15, 18, and 24 are argued as a group. Claims 8, 11, 16, 17, 30 and 31 are argued individually. In addition, claims 20-23 and 26 stand or fall with claim 1.

Ground 2

Claims 5, 9, 10, 12, 14, 19 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Harju. Under Ground 2, claims 5, 9, 10, 12, 19 and 38 are argued individually. Claim 14 stands or falls with claim 1. In addition, claims 39 and 40 stand or fall with claim 38.

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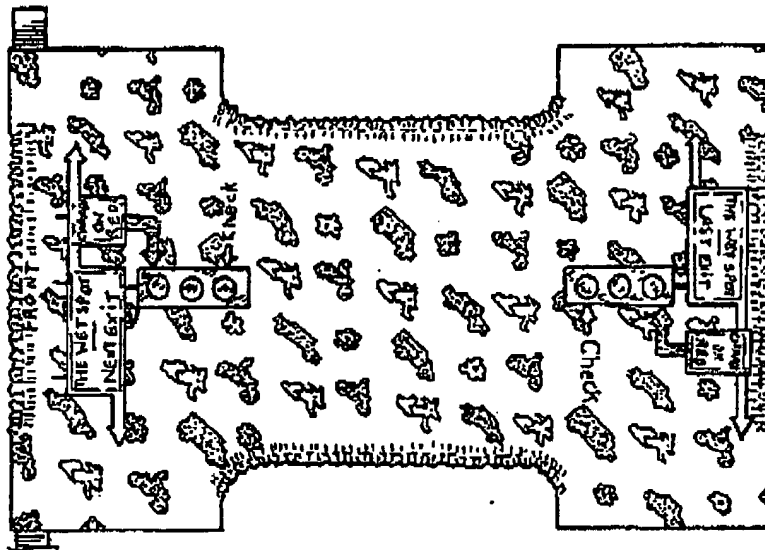
Argument

Ground 1 – Rejection Of Claim 1-4, 6-8, 11, 13, 15-18, 24 and 30-31

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11, 13, 15-18, 24 and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Design Patent 313,076 issued December 18, 1990 to Harju. Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection is improper and should be reversed.

Ground 1 – Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13, 15, 18 and 24

Appellants' claimed structure is not anticipated by Harju. Though Harju appears to disclose a diaper having graphics on an outer cover, Harju does not disclose a "permanent character graphic," which is an element of every independent claim. An enlarged image of Figure 3 of Harju, which is described as a bottom plan view, is reprinted below:



The Examiner stated on page 2 of the Office Action that "Disposed on the outer cover are a permanent character graphic, an animal performing the human behavior of sitting,"

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Appellants submit, however, that the term "character graphic" has been defined in the specification and that the definition cannot be ignored. Appellants have defined a "character graphic" at pg. 6, line 10 of the specification as "a graphic containing an anthropomorphous image, and in particular an image having or suggesting human form or appearance which ascribes human motivations, characteristics, or behavior to inanimate objects, animals, natural phenomena, cartoon characters, or the like."

Even prior to the rejection based on Harju, Appellants dealt with the question, raised by another Examiner formerly handling this application, of whether or when an animal such as a dog would be considered a character graphic. Two paragraphs from pages 5-6 of a prior Appeal Brief filed July 7, 2003 are extremely pertinent to the failings of Harju and are reprinted below:

The Examiner questioned whether a picture of a live dog or a bird would qualify as a "character graphic." Office Action, pg. 9. One need only review the definition of the term "character graphic" to know the answer: a picture of a live dog or bird, on their own, would not contain an anthropomorphous image, i.e., nothing suggesting human form or appearance which ascribes human motivations, characteristics or behavior. If instead, for example, the dog was given a shirt and a hat and was shown sitting up driving an automobile, such a depiction would clearly fall into the category of "character graphic." See attached Figure 1 of the application where a dog depicted as driving an automobile is not given human arms or legs, but is depicted in an act decidedly "non-dog-like" and is depicted with human motivations, characteristics and behavior. This dog is shown sitting upright in an automobile wearing a baseball cap and grasping a steering wheel like a human would engage in such an activity.

The Examiner suggested that motivation could be eating, sleeping, walking, sitting or running. Office Action, pg. 9. Appellants agree with the Examiner, while pointing out that in defining "character graphic" the specification modifies the word "motivations" with the word "human". By way of example, a picture of a live dog sleeping would not constitute a "character graphic," but the depiction of a dog sleeping like a human would be a "character graphic." Perhaps such a dog could be depicted as wearing pajamas and lying under the covers of an elevated bed or some other creative depiction. This is merely one possible example. A creative product designer would only be limited by his or her imagination in coming up with such depictions which portray the dog with human motivations, characteristics or behavior in the place of canine motivations, characteristics or behavior. The same could be said for the motivations of eating, walking and running. A "character graphic" would depict such motivations in a way that is human in nature as compared to the natural behavior of the inanimate objects, animals, or natural phenomena being depicted.

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The prior appeal was terminated when the Examiner reopened prosecution.

Even accepting the Examiner's position that Harju depicts an animal, Appellants submit that Harju does not disclose a permanent character graphic as that term is defined and used in the present application. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 7, 13, 15, 18 and 24 should be reversed.

Ground 1 – Claim 8

Dependent claim 8 further recites "at least one visual segmentation element disposed on the outer cover and comprising a segmentation graphic that at least partially surrounds the permanent character graphic." Appellants employ visual segmentation elements to further the conceptual and/or visual separation between character graphics and active object graphics. Pg. 12, lines 3-5. The term "visual segmentation element" is defined as "a visually distinguishable feature that separates the exterior of the absorbent article into two or more zones, and in particular into at least one training zone including the active object graphics and at least one character zone including the permanent character graphics." Pg. 12, lines 5-9. Appellants use the term "segmentation graphic" to refer to a particular form of visual segmentation element, one "that comprises a graphic formed of inks, dyes, pigments or the like rather than a visual segmentation element that comprises a separate substrate, such as a nonwoven layer, a film layer, an absorbent layer, or the like." Pg. 12, line 31 to pg. 13, line 2. An example of a segmentation graphic that at least partially surrounds, and in particular substantially surrounds, a permanent character graphic is depicted in Figure 1. Pg. 26, lines 1-7. Appellants submit that Harju does not disclose a segmentation graphic that at least partially surrounds a permanent character graphic. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 8 should be reversed.

Ground 1 – Claim 11

Dependent claim 11 further recites "at least one visual segmentation element disposed on the outer cover and comprising a segmentation graphic that at least partially surrounds the active object graphic." The segmentation graphic of claim 11 at least partially surrounds the active object graphic, whereas the segmentation graphic of claim 8 at least partially surrounds the permanent character graphic. Appellants submit that Harju does not disclose a visual

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segmentation element that at least partially surrounds a permanent character graphic. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 11 should be reversed.

Ground 1 – Claim 16

Dependent claim 16 specifies that at least one visual segmentation element is disposed on the outer cover and comprises a background color graphic. A background color graphic is a form of segmentation graphic. The term "background color graphic" refers to "a colored background which is used behind or at least partially surrounding either the permanent character graphic or the active object graphic to visually separate these graphics. In particular embodiments, for example, the character graphic is on a generally white background and the background color graphic for the active object graphic is pink; the background color graphic for the character graphic is blue and the active object graphic is on a generally white background; the background color graphic for the character graphic is green and the background color graphic for the active object graphic is yellow; or other suitable variations." Pg. 14, lines 13-22. Appellants submit that Harju does not disclose a colored background used behind or at least partially surrounding either a permanent character graphic or an active object graphic to visually separate these graphics. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 16 should be reversed.

Ground 1 – Claim 17

Dependent claim 17 specifies that "the visual segmentation element further comprises a segmentation graphic that at least partially surrounds the permanent character graphic." Appellants submit that Harju does not disclose a segmentation graphic that at least partially surrounds a permanent character graphic. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 17 should be reversed.

Ground 1 – Claim 30

Dependent claim 30 specifies that the permanent character graphic is disposed in the first waist region and the active object graphic is disposed in the crotch region. Referring to Harju, the Examiner stated simply that "the active object graphic extends into the crotch region, as shown in figure 3." Office Action, pg. 4. Appellants submit that the Examiner's statement does not establish anticipation. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 30 should be reversed.

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Ground 1 – Claim 31

Dependent claim 31 further recites that “the active object graphic is longitudinally disposed between the permanent character graphic and the transverse centerline.” The Examiner merely references Figure 1 of Harju. Office Action, pg. 4. Appellants submit that the Examiner’s statement does not establish anticipation. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 31 should be reversed.

Ground 2 – Rejection Of Claims 5, 9, 10, 12, 14, 19 and 38

Claims 5, 9, 10, 12, 14, 19 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harju. Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s rejection is improper and should be reversed.

Ground 2 – Claim 5

Dependant claim 5 specifies that “the permanent character graphic is illustrated to be involved in an activity or action utilizing the permanent object graphic.” The activity or action is a beneficial aspect of the toilet training process, facilitating interaction of the caregiver and child and positive discussion concerning the training process. Pg. 11, lines 5-13. Beyond the fact that Harju does not disclose a “character graphic,” as that term is defined in the application, Harju does not disclose a character graphic illustrated to be involved in an activity or action utilizing any object graphic. Both of the Examiner’s statements supporting the rejection – that the graphics configuration is an obvious matter of design choice and serves no particular purpose – are erroneous. Further, the Examiner has not identified any motivation to modify Harju to achieve the claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 5 is improper and should be reversed.

Ground 2 – Claim 9

Dependent claim 9 specifies that “the segmentation graphic completely surrounds the permanent character graphic.” Harju does not disclose a segmentation graphic completely surrounding a permanent character graphic. The Examiner’s casual and conclusory dismissal of the claim limitations, that is an “obvious matter of design choice” and “serves no particular

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purpose and solves no stated problem," is insufficient to establish a proper case of prima facie obviousness. Further, the Examiner has not identified any motivation to modify Harju to achieve the claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 9 is improper and should be reversed.

Ground 2 – Claim 10

Claim 10 recites "a permanent object graphic that is interactively interrelated with the permanent character graphic," and specifies that a "segmentation graphic at least partially surrounds both the permanent character graphic and the permanent object graphic." The term "interactively interrelated" is used to mean "that the character graphic is illustrated to be involved in or performing an action or activity, and the object graphic is the object of or is associated with the action or activity." Pg. 8, lines 20-24. Beyond the fact that Harju does not disclose a permanent character graphic, Harju does not disclose a permanent object graphic interactively interrelated with the permanent character graphic. Harju also does not disclose a segmentation element at least partially surrounding both a permanent character graphic and a permanent object graphic. Without the benefit of Appellants' specification, Harju provides no motivation to employ the claimed graphics configuration. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 10 is improper and should be reversed.

Ground 2 – Claim 12

Claim 12 specifies that the "segmentation graphic completely surrounds the active object graphic." Harju also does not disclose a segmentation graphic completely surrounding an active object graphic. Further, the Examiner has not identified any motivation to modify Harju to achieve the claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 12 is improper and should be reversed.

Ground 2 – Claim 19

Claim 19 recites "at least one visual segmentation element disposed on the outer cover and comprising a defined floor graphic, the permanent character graphic being illustrated positioned on the defined floor graphic." The term "defined floor graphic" is defined in the specification at pg. 14, lines 1-3, as "a graphic that illustrates a surface upon which the

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character graphic is in close proximity to or is in contact." The application provides numerous examples, such as the defined floor graphic comprising "a defined region of a lawn and the character graphic can be standing directly on the lawn." Pg. 14, lines 3-12. The defined floor graphic can further function to disassociate the motivating character graphic and activity of the character graphic from the change in the active graphic, due to the child wetting the absorbent article. The Examiner's naked assertions that the claim limitations are an "obvious matter of design choice" and "serves no particular purpose and solves no stated problem" is insufficient to establish a proper case of prima facie obviousness. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 19 is improper and should be reversed.

Ground 2 – Claim 38

The Examiner's rejection of claim 38 should be reversed. Harju does not disclose a "character graphic" as that term is defined in Appellants specification and provides no rationale for modifying Harju to provide a character graphic. Additionally, Harju does not disclose a permanent character graphic illustrated to be involved in an activity or action utilizing a permanent object graphic, and the Examiner has failed to cite any proper motivation for modifying Harju to achieve the claimed invention. For at least these reasons, the rejection to claim 38 is improper and should be reversed.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be reversed. It is respectfully submitted that Appellants' claimed invention is neither expressly taught nor inherent in the cited references. Additionally, the Examiner has not established a prima facie case that the particular combinations of components called for by Appellants' claims would be suggested by a proper combination of the sighted references. To the contrary, it is readily apparent that when each cited reference is considered in its entirety and taken as a whole, a proper combination of the cited references would not teach the Appellants' claimed invention. Only in light of Appellants' present disclosure and the impermissible use of hindsight would a person of ordinary skill be directed to the significant changes and modifications needed to reconfigure

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the various components to arrive at Appellants' claimed invention. As such, the invention called for by Appellants' claims is patentable over the cited references.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections should be reversed, and claims 1-24, 26, 30, 31 and 38-40 be allowed to issue.

Please charge the \$500.00 fee (fee code 1402), pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 41.20(b)(2), for filing this Appeal Brief to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875. Any additional prosecutorial fees which are due may also be charged to deposit account number 11-0875.

The undersigned may be reached at: 920-721-3617.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK T. CAMMAROTA ET AL.

By:


Thomas M. Gage

Registration No. 33,385

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Appendix – The Claims On Appeal

The claims on appeal are:

1. An absorbent article comprising:

- an outer cover having an interior surface and an opposite exterior surface;
- an absorbent assembly disposed on the interior surface;
- a permanent character graphic disposed on the outer cover; and
- an active object graphic disposed on the outer cover, the permanent character graphic and the active object graphic being unrelated in subject matter.

2. An absorbent article comprising:

- an outer cover having an interior surface and an opposite exterior surface;
- an absorbent assembly disposed on the interior surface;
- a permanent character graphic disposed on the outer cover, the permanent character graphic illustrated performing an activity or action; and
- an active object graphic disposed on the outer cover, the permanent character graphic being interactively unrelated to the active object graphic.

3. An absorbent article comprising:

- an outer cover having an interior surface and an opposite exterior surface;
- an absorbent assembly disposed on the interior surface;
- a permanent character graphic disposed on the outer cover;
- an active object graphic disposed on the outer cover; and
- a visual segmentation element disposed between the permanent character graphic and the active object graphic.

4. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising a permanent object graphic.

5. The absorbent article of claim 4, wherein the permanent character graphic is illustrated to be involved in an activity or action utilizing the permanent object graphic.

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6. The absorbent article of claim 4, wherein the active object graphic is not related in subject matter to the permanent object graphic.
7. The absorbent article of claim 4, wherein the active object graphic is interactively unrelated to the permanent object graphic.
8. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising at least one visual segmentation element disposed on the outer cover and comprising a segmentation graphic that at least partially surrounds the permanent character graphic.
9. The absorbent article of claim 8, wherein the segmentation graphic completely surrounds the permanent character graphic.
10. The absorbent article of claim 8, further comprising a permanent object graphic that is interactively interrelated with the permanent character graphic, wherein the segmentation graphic at least partially surrounds both the permanent character graphic and the permanent object graphic.
11. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising at least one visual segmentation element disposed on the outer cover and comprising a segmentation graphic that at least partially surrounds the active object graphic.
12. The absorbent article of claim 11, wherein the segmentation graphic completely surrounds the active object graphic.
13. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising at least one visual segmentation element disposed on the outer cover and comprising a segmentation graphic formed of a substantially continuous line segment.
14. The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the line segment is curved.

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15. The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the line segment is generally perpendicular to an imaginary line connecting the permanent character graphic and the active object graphic.

16. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising at least one visual segmentation element disposed on the outer cover and comprising a background color graphic.

17. The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the visual segmentation element further comprises a segmentation graphic that at least partially surrounds the permanent character graphic.

18. The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the visual segmentation element further comprises a segmentation graphic formed of a substantially continuous line segment that is generally perpendicular to an imaginary line connecting the permanent character graphic and the active object graphic.

19. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising at least one visual segmentation element disposed on the outer cover and comprising a defined floor graphic, the permanent character graphic being illustrated positioned on the defined floor graphic.

20. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the active object graphic is in liquid communication with the absorbent assembly and comprises an ink that is soluble in urine.

21. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the active object graphic is in liquid communication with the absorbent assembly and comprises an ink that changes color when exposed to urine.

22. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the active object graphic is in liquid communication with the absorbent assembly and comprises an appearing graphic that becomes significantly more visible when exposed to urine.

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23. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the active object graphic comprises an appearing graphic that becomes significantly more visible when exposed to an environment during use and prior to contact with urine.

24. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the permanent character graphic is disposed on the exterior surface of the outer cover and the active object graphic is disposed on the interior surface of the outer cover.

25. (canceled)

26. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the active object graphic is disposed on a surface of the absorbent assembly that faces the outer cover.

27-29. (canceled)

30. The absorbent article of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the absorbent article defines a longitudinal centerline, a transverse centerline, opposite first and second longitudinal end edges, first and second waist regions abutting the respective first and second longitudinal end edges, and a crotch region disposed between and interconnecting the first and second waist regions, the permanent character graphic being disposed in the first waist region and the active object graphic being disposed in the crotch region.

31. The absorbent article of claim 30, wherein the active object graphic is longitudinally disposed between the permanent character graphic and the transverse centerline.

32-37. (canceled)

38. A disposable training pant defining a longitudinal centerline, a transverse centerline, opposite first and second longitudinal end edges, first and second waist regions abutting the respective first and second longitudinal end edges, and a crotch region disposed between and interconnecting the first and second waist regions, the absorbent article comprising:
an outer cover having an interior surface and an opposite exterior surface;

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an absorbent assembly disposed on the interior surface;
a permanent character graphic disposed on the outer cover in the first waist region;
a permanent object graphic disposed on the outer cover in the first waist region, the permanent character graphic illustrated to be involved in an activity or action utilizing the permanent object graphic;

an active object graphic disposed on the outer cover in the crotch region and in liquid communication with the absorbent assembly, both the permanent character graphic and the permanent object graphic being unrelated in subject matter to the active object graphic, and the permanent character graphic being interactively unrelated to the active object graphic; and

a visual segmentation element disposed between the permanent character graphic and the active object graphic.

39. The absorbent article of claim 38, wherein the active object graphic comprises an ink that is soluble in urine.

40. The absorbent article of claim 38, wherein the active object graphic comprises an ink that changes color when exposed to urine.

41-42. (canceled)

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Evidence Appendix

none

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Related Proceedings Appendix

none

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Exhibit

(Figures from the application)

Absorbent Articles Having Wetness Indicating
Indicating A Training Zone
Inventors: Mark T. Cammarota et al.

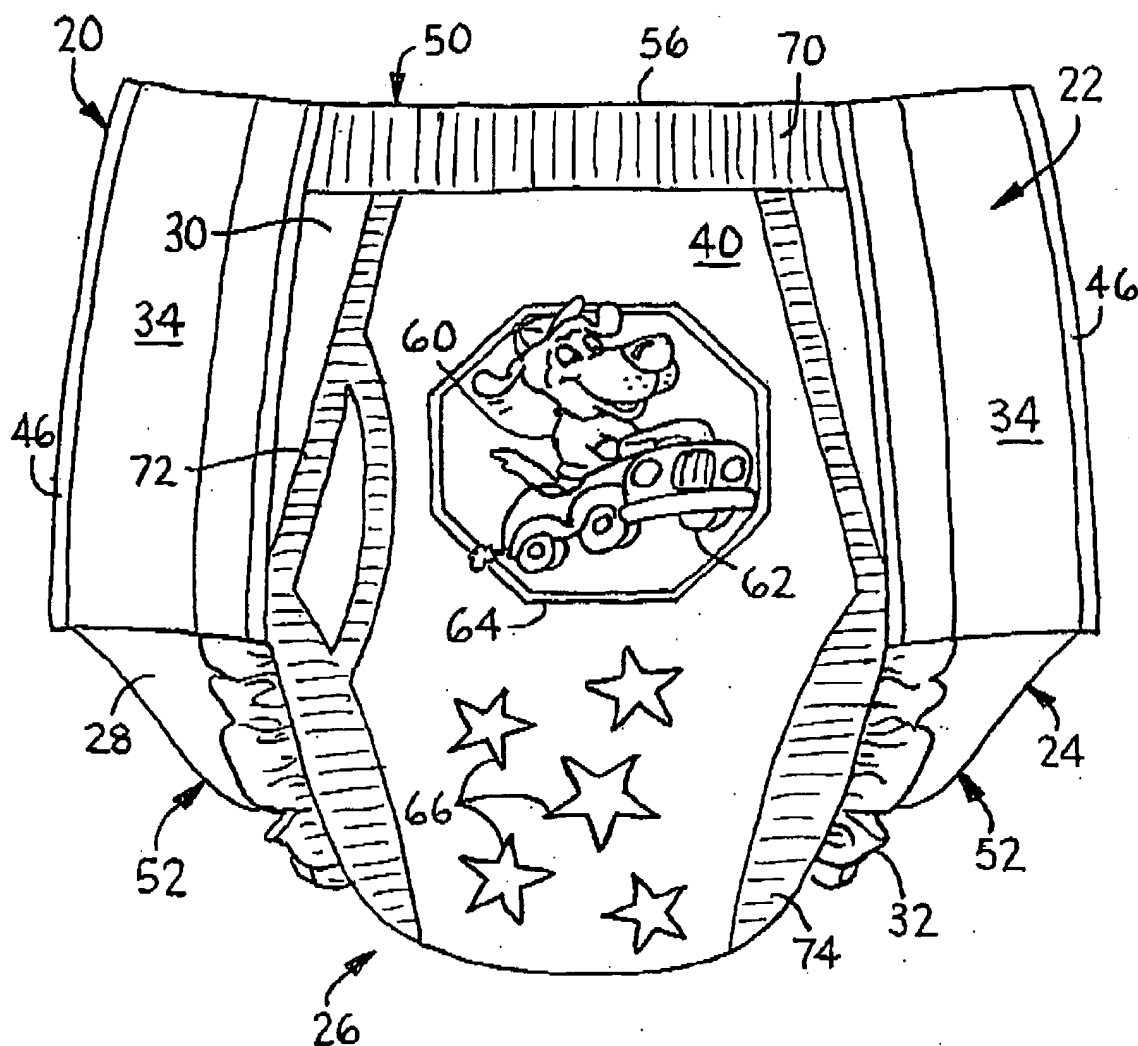


FIG. 1

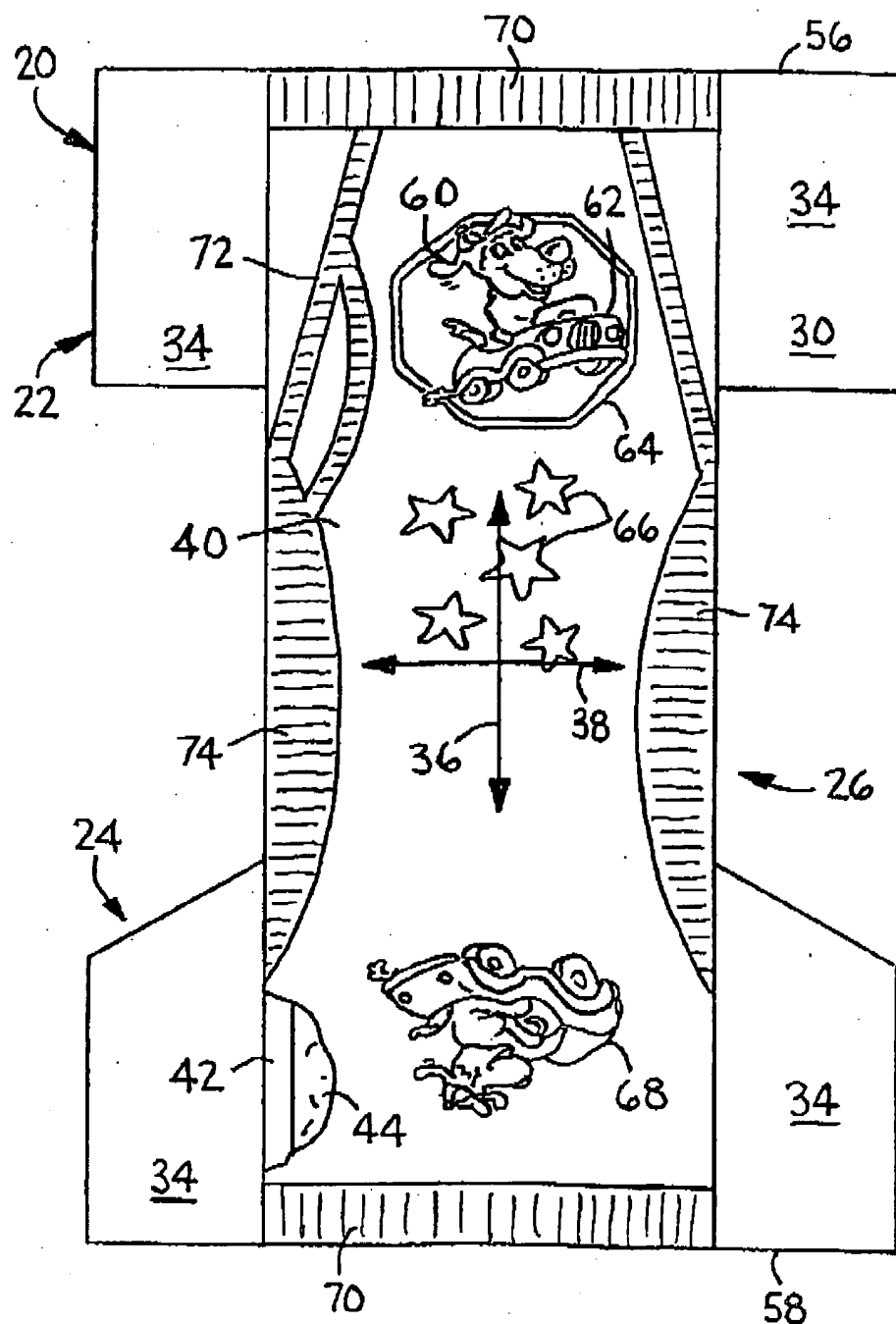


FIG. 2

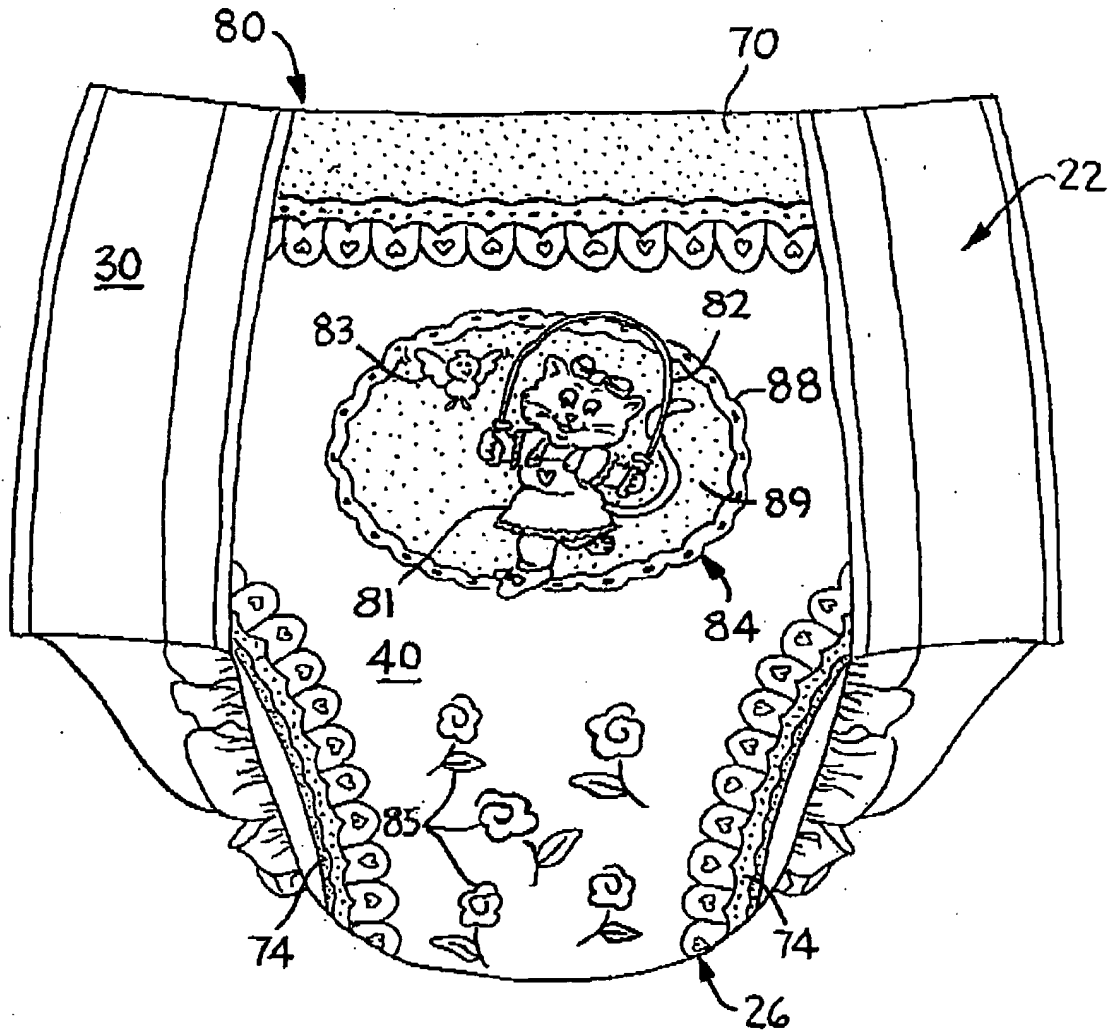


FIG. 3

Training Absorbent Articles Having Wetness Indicating
Indicating A Training Zone
Inventors: Mark T. Cammarota et al.

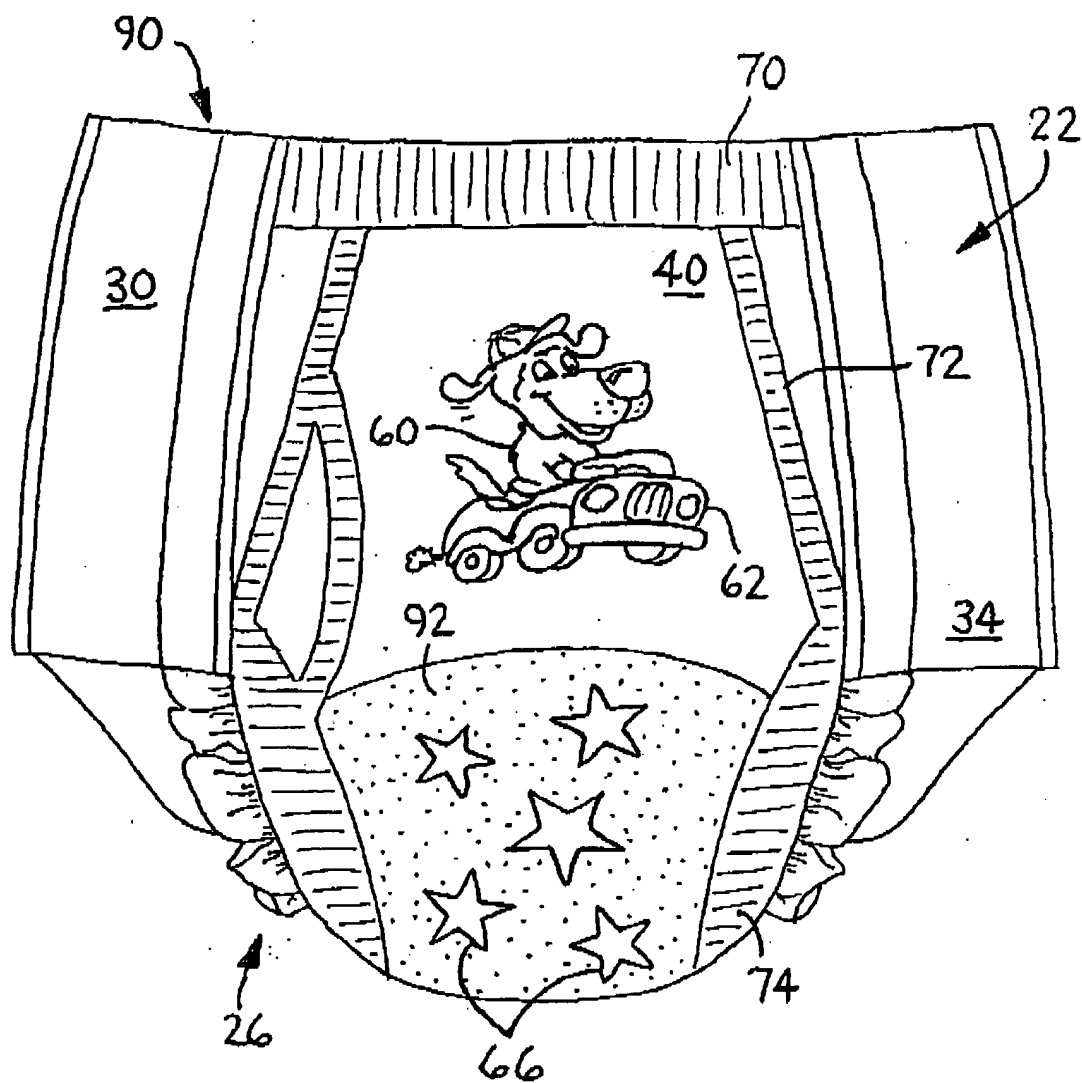


FIG. 4

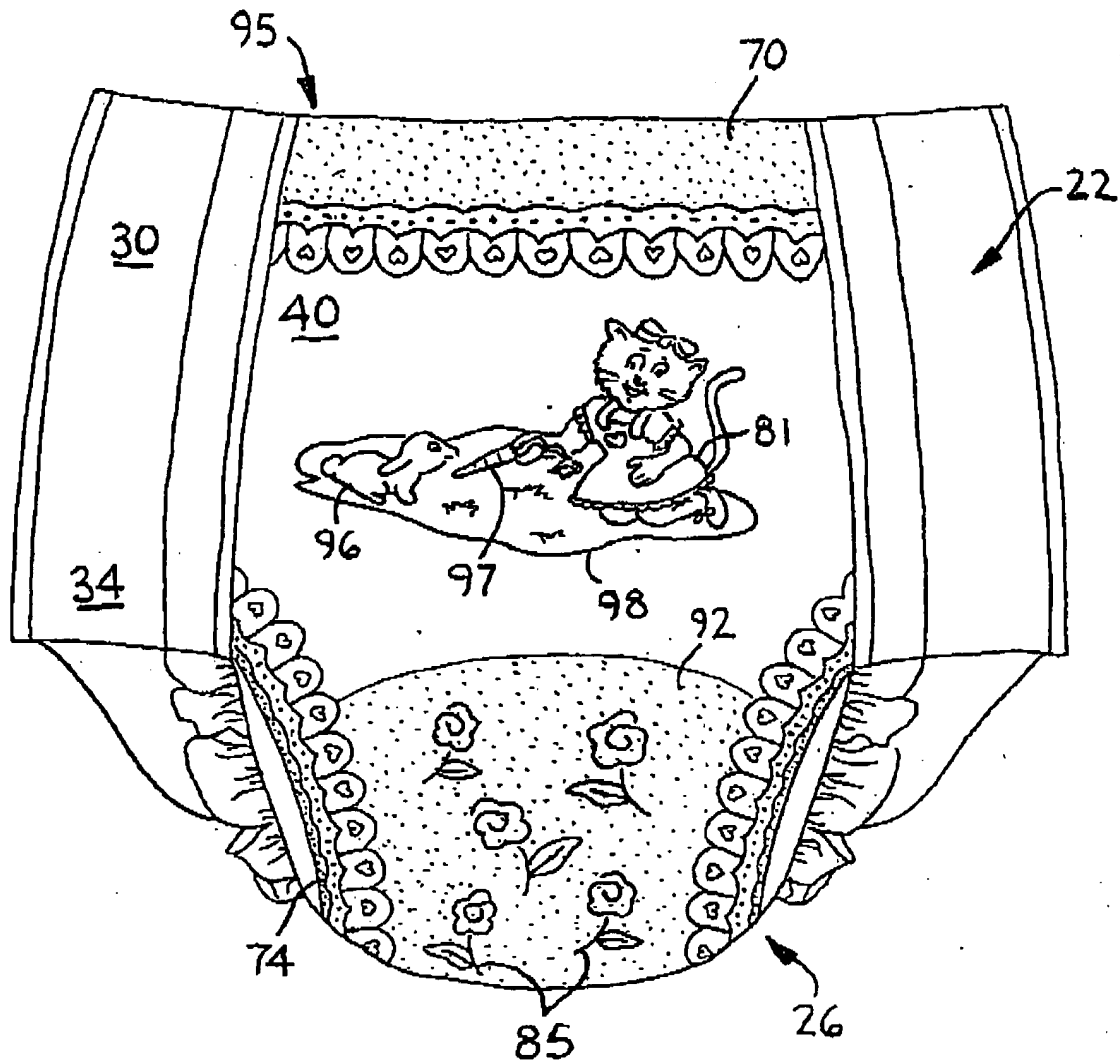


FIG. 5

Title: Absorbent Articles Having Wetness Indicating Graphics
Including A Training Zone
Inventors: Mark T. Cammarota et al.

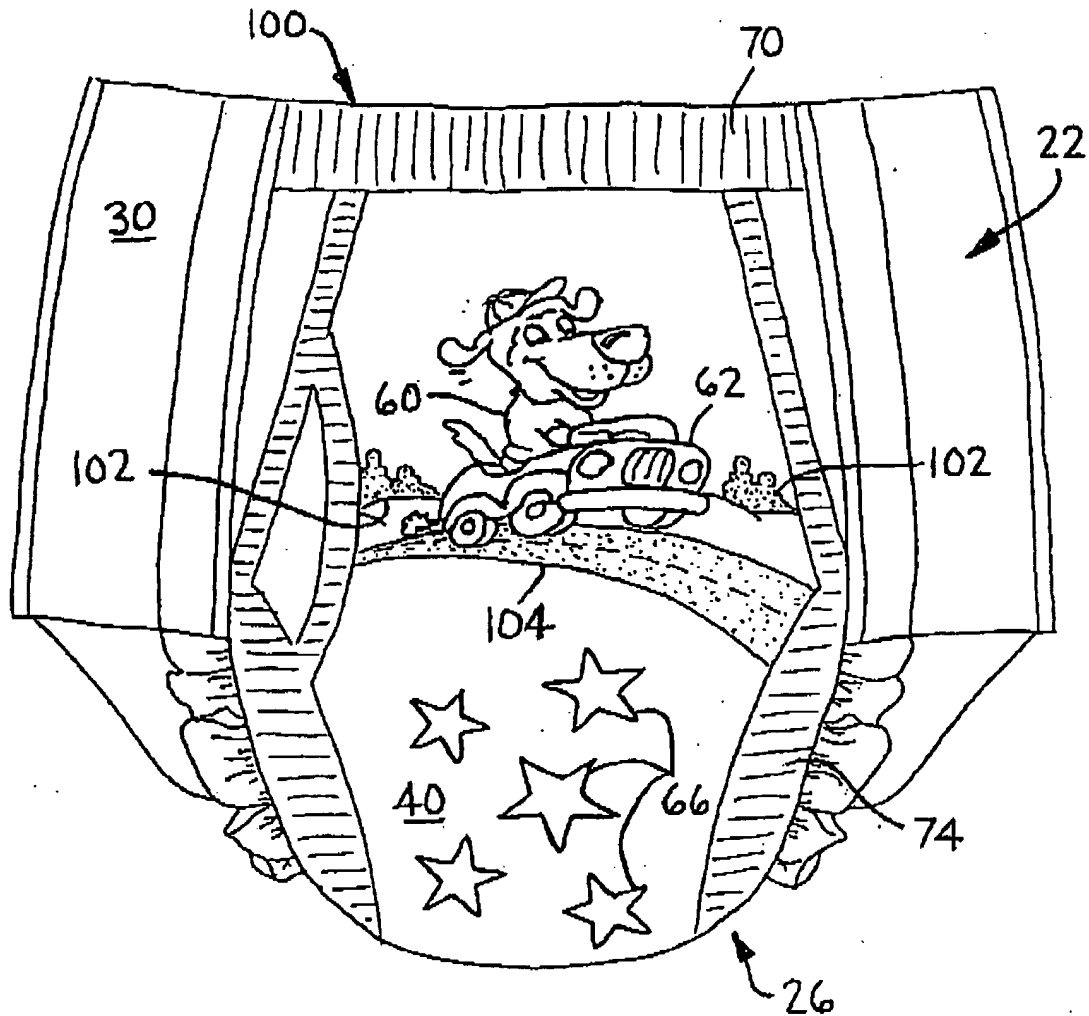


FIG. 6

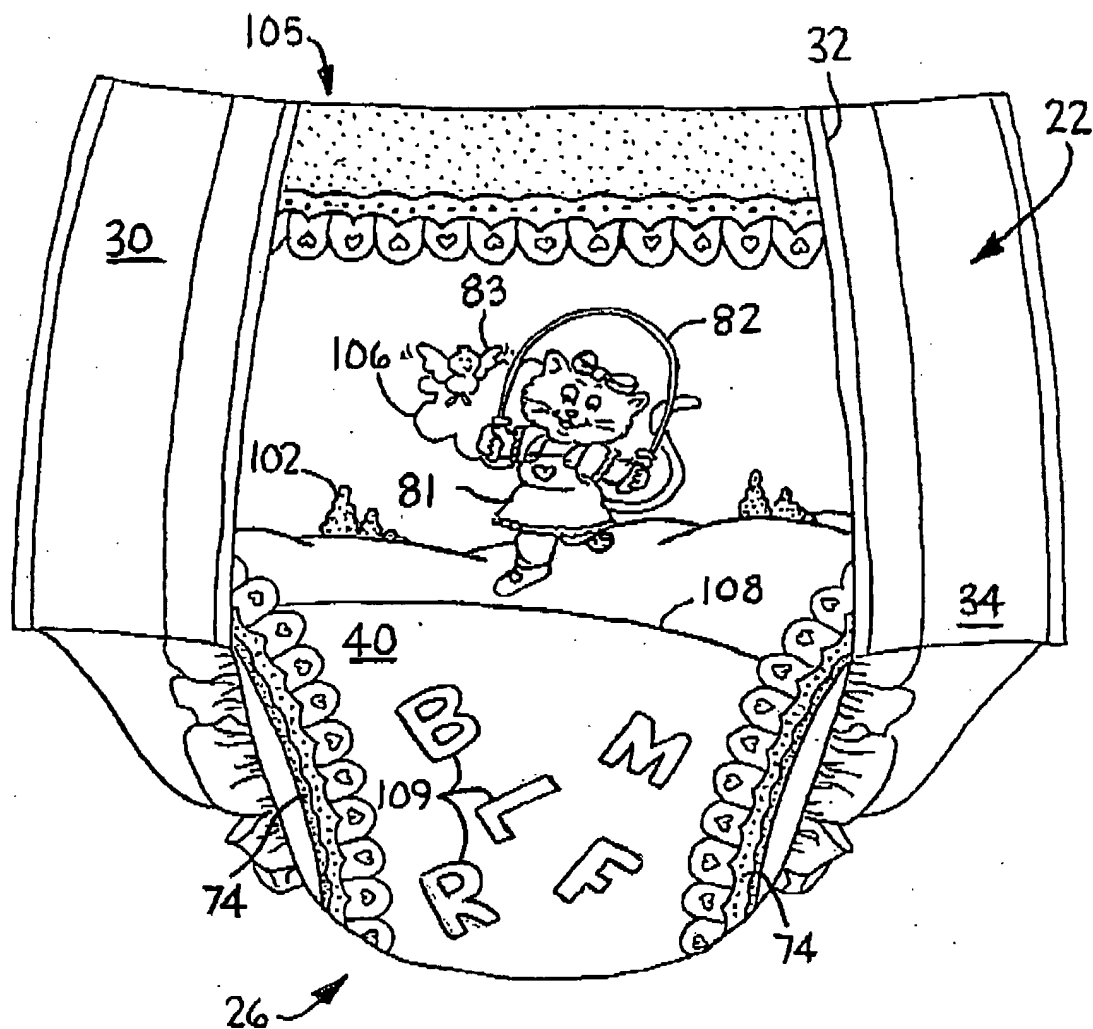


FIG. 7

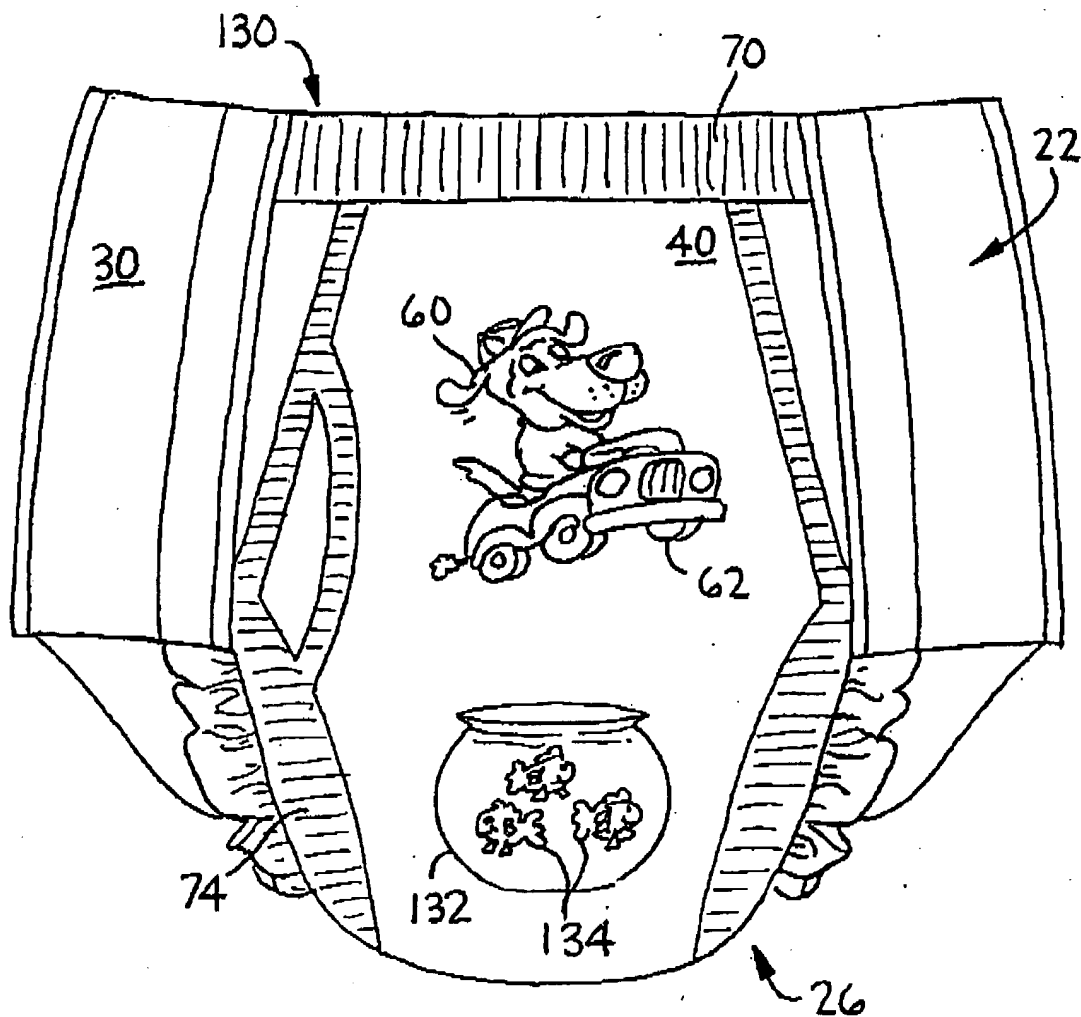


FIG. 8

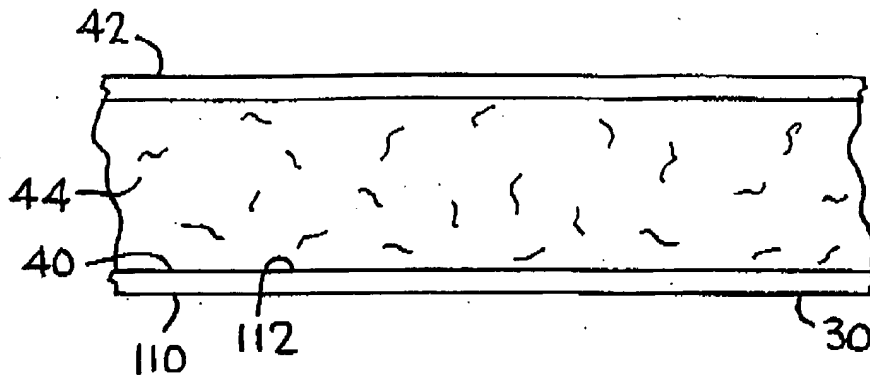


FIG. 9A

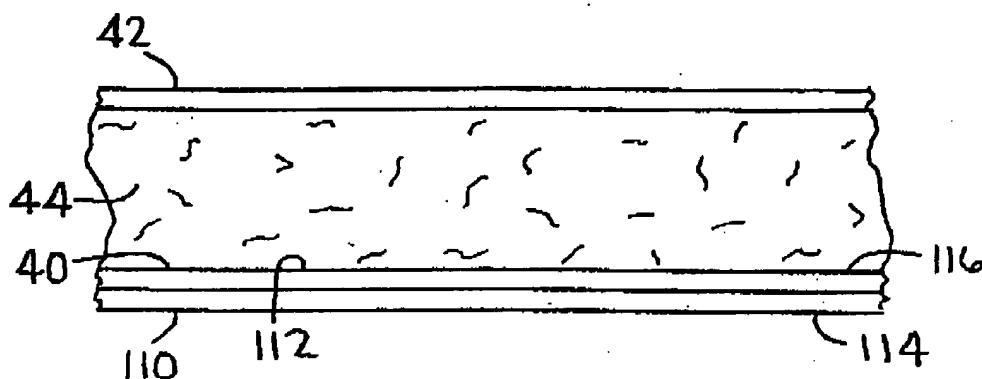


FIG. 9B

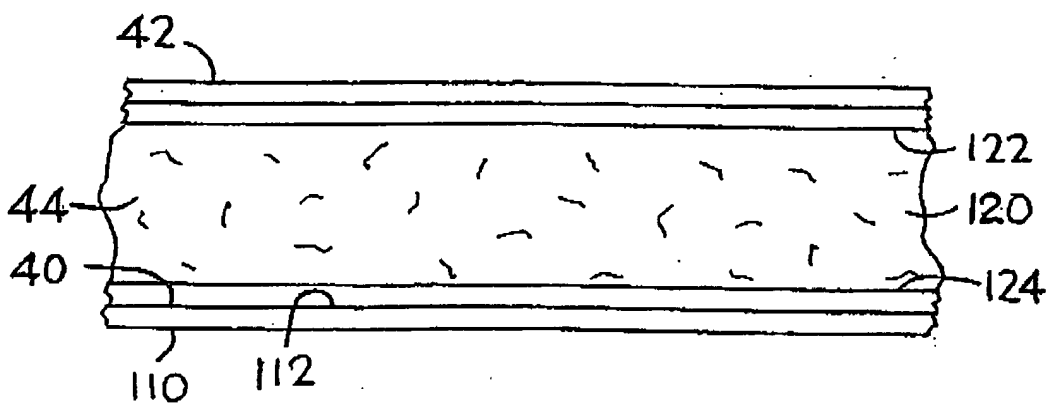


FIG. 9C